

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Dr. M. R. Young's letter (*antea* 87:299) prompts me to write in reply. I agree with much that he says and especially with his remarks on "scalps". However, the subject of nature conservation is so important that we all of us have to do something, and NOW; but I cannot see that the collector is guilty, and—provided that he collects judiciously—I should like to say something in his defence.

We often read that collectors have extirpated this and that species. Such remarks though, are just what governments and other authorities look for to try to excuse their inadequate efforts at conservation with the words: "We have done all we can!" But to consider the problem from another point of view. How many specimens can a collector kill in a year? I suggest not so much as a titbit. In Formosa (Taiwan) butterflies are caught in millions for "industrial purposes", and according Pfaff¹ with no weakening of species, as only males are killed. But the same article states that man-made changes in the forest vegetation cause an immediate decline in butterfly populations, and my own experience² definitely supports this. In fact the guilty party is *not* the collector, but the authorities who encourage conifer mono-cultures in our woods, the draining of swamps and other changes detrimental to nature, most of which are *absolutely unnecessary*. May I give an example: *Parnassius mnemosyne* L. was years ago a common butterfly near Jaegerspris in Denmark. Suddenly the locality came under "forestry management" and the old oak wood was changed to one of spruce or some other conifer. Needless to say, *P. mnemosyne* has now completely gone. The collectors? Has there ever been a collector who for example could eradicate *P. apollo* L. from a locality? But farming and the planting of spruce can cause its complete disappearance (and that of other species) within a few years. — GEORGE CHRISTENSEN, Monemvasia, Lakonias, Hellas, Greece.

¹ Pfaff, G., 1975. Massenfang von Schmetterlinge auf Formosa, *Das Tier*, No. 2. Hallwag, Bern & Stuttgart.

² Christensen, G., 1975. Wer Rotter Aus . . . ?, *Ent. Zeitschrift*, 85 (21), 246-248.

Notes and Observations

COCHYLIDIA IMPLICITANA (WOCKE) AND AETHES SMEATHMANNIANA (FAB.) IN LANCASHIRE. — On the 18th August, 1974 we visited a locality on the coast near Rampside, south of Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire (SD 22-67-). Lepidoptera were few, except for *Agrophila straminella* (D. & S.), which was abundant. We were fortunate, however, to put up from the grass a single specimen of *Cochylidia implicitana* (Wocke). This was just before sunset, and no others were noted that evening. A

second visit on the following day produced a further four specimens, also swept or disturbed from the grass near the shore at sunset. One of the foodplants of *C. implicitana*, *Tripleurospermum maritimum* ssp. *inodorum*, abounds along this part of coast, but all the specimens of *implicitana* noted were in a relatively small area and a thorough search failed to reveal it elsewhere. Bradley, Tremewan and Smith (*British Tortricoid Moths*, 1973) give Walney Island as the most northerly record for this species, where it was taken by Dr. Birkett in 1955 (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, 67:331). A visit in search of *implicitana* was made to Walney on the 20th August, but a lengthy search of areas where the above foodplant was present proved in vain. Three localities (SD 18-66, SD 196655 and SD 19-64-) were examined, but a strong breeze hampered the search. In the second of these localities, however, a specimen of *Aethes smeathmanniana* (Fab.), a species described by Bradley, Tremewan and Smith as scarce in Lancashire and Cheshire, was swept from *Chenopodium* sp. Its foodplants *Achillea millefolium* and *Centaurea nigra* were present here. — J. S. S. CHARLES, Flat 4, 13 East Grove Road, Sheffield, S10 2NN and E. F. HANCOCK, "Abbotsford", Belmont, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7HD.

CYNAEDA DENTALIS (D. & S.) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) ON THE HAMPSHIRE MAINLAND. — A single specimen came to mercury vapour light on 6.viii.71 on the brow of Portsdown Hill, and two more on 3.vii.75 in the same place. The foodplant, viper's bugloss, grows freely on the steep bank below the road. There have been reports of the species before, but none were considered entirely satisfactory by Goater (*Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*). More recently Mr. S. A. Knill-Jones records capturing a specimen away from the foodplant at Freshwater, 28.vii.74 (*Proc. Brit. ent. nat. Hist Soc.*, 1975, 7:95). — Dr. RICHARD DICKSON, MB.BChir., College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorks., WF14 0BW.

POLIA HEPATICA CLERCK (TINCTA BRAHM): SILVERY ARCHES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE. — I was delighted to see in my home trap a male specimen on 18th June, 1975. At first I regarded it as just a casual wanderer, but after looking up previous recordings, I find it is not in Donovan's Catalogue (1941) but in the first Supplement (1946) by Mr. Austen Richardson there is an entry from Perkins' list (1901) for Kimberland. This is a part of the county which has changed considerably, and much of it is now a developed area. In Richardson's third Supplement (1972) three records are given: Toddington and Almondsbury (1954) and Tortworth (Michael Wood) 1964. Now in 1975 we have it in Tetbury. I am left wondering if maybe it is not an adventitious species after all. These localities are all south of the Severn but are well apart. It may be that it has been overlooked or that we have too few observers covering the area. — J. NEWTON, 11 Oxlease Close, Tetbury, Glos.